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JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS PLEDGE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT TO ROOSEVELT IN WAR AGAINST JAPAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Unqualified Jewish support to President Roosevelt in the war with Japan was pledged today by the Jewish War Veterans, the American Jewish Congress and by numerous Jewish bodies all over the country.

Every American Jew and especially the ex-servicemen were asked to immediately embark on some activity demanded by the present national emergency, in a call issued by Benjamin Kaufman, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, President of the American Jewish Congress, in behalf of that organization sent a message to President Roosevelt saying: "The American Jewish Congress, including a number of nationwide Jewish organizations, that is hundreds of thousands of American Jews, desires you to know that its membership and leadership alike are eager to give fullest support in every sense to our government and to you, its leader."

The 32nd annual convention of the Middle-Atlantic section of the Jewish Welfare Board adopted a resolution in Baltimore last night reading: "Having learned of the unprovoked attacks upon the United States by Japan, the convention pledges its whole-hearted and unqualified support to the President of the United States and the Governmental departments thereby, in any manner in which the organization or its members may be called upon to render service in this emergency."

A prayer for the safety of the American people in the present state of war with Japan was offered last night by Rabbi Joseph Konovitz, honorary president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada. The prayer was recited in Baltimore at the eighth annual banquet of the Ner Israel Yeshivah attended by leaders of Baltimore and Washington Jewry. The 600 guests at the banquet rose at attention when Rabbi Konovitz offered an additional prayer for President Roosevelt "that he guide the nation through safely in the fearful days bound to come."

JDC REPRESENTATIVES MAROONED IN SHANGHAI; DEPARTURE OF RABBIS FOR CANADA PREVENTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Two representatives of the American Joint Distribution Committee, Miss Laura Margolis and Manuel Siegel, are now in Shanghai and have cabled that they doubt whether either of them will be able to leave the city, it was revealed today by Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman of the JDC.

Both being American citizens, they were urged a few days ago by the JDC to leave Shanghai as soon as possible. Miss Margolis replied in a radiogram on Sunday, a few hours before the Japanese attack on American territory, that she would try to leave on the boat which was scheduled to sail on Dec. 11 from Shanghai for the United States with fifty Jewish rabbis and Yeshiva students from Poland for whom the JDC has arranged transportation to Canada. The JDC has been caring for more than 20,000 Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

FATE OF JEWS IN JAPANESE-CONTROLLED SHANGHAI AND MANCHUKUO WORRIES LONDON LEADERS

LONDON, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Anxiety was felt in Jewish circles here today over the fate of the more than 20,000 Jewish refugees now marooned in Shanghai as well as of the local Jewish population in Manchukuo which is completely under Japanese control.

With an anti-Jewish drive recently started by Nazi-inspired elements in Japan, it is feared that the outbreak of war in the Pacific will worsen the situation both for the Jews in Manchukuo, especially in Harbin, the majority of whom are Russian-born, as well as for the Jewish refugees from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland now concentrated in Shanghai.

No Polish Jews are now left in Japan, according to information released today by Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council. There are, however, over a thousand Polish Jews now stranded in Shanghai. Last minute appeals were made today to the Polish Government-in-exile here, asking that immediate action be taken to facilitate the departure of these Jews. Hope was expressed here today that they may still be able to leave Shanghai.

The situation of the Jewish refugees from Germany, several thousands of whom now live in refugee camps in the Hongkew section of Shanghai which is under Japanese control, is for the time being not clear. As holder of German passports they may not be molested, it is hoped, since they cannot be considered "enemy aliens." The opinion prevails here that Japan may keep all the Jewish refugees isolated in Shanghai without permitting them to maintain any contact with the outside world.

ADVENTURES OF 520 SHIPWRECKED REFUGEES RELATED IN REPORT REACHING PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Palestine today, after 18 months, received a detailed report of the fate of 520 Jewish refugees interned on the Italian Island of Rhodes after being shipwrecked in July, 1940, when their small Bulgarian steamship Pentcho foundered off the Dodecanese Islands, bringing their five-month odyssey to an end.

The report, which reached here through Turkey, read like the adventures of Robinson Crusoe. The passengers, all Jews from Germany and Czechoslovakia, improvised sails when the boilers failed. A favorable wind very slowly propelled the vessel all day long. Towards evening, however, the vessel struck an uninhabited island in the Mediterranean and began sinking rapidly. The passengers succeeded in lowering the gangplanks to the shore and landed in an orderly manner.

The first passenger to land was a refugee who carried the Torah scroll which the passengers had with them from the very first day of their wanderings. He was followed by women and children. The men passengers and the crew landed later without the loss of a single life.

Morning found them on land with fresh spring water but with no food. After quenching their thirst some of the men returned to the ship to save anything that could be used for the erection of huts. Suffering hunger, the refugees hung out white flags during the day and burned fires during the night in order to attract the attention of passing ships. On dawn of the eleventh day they heard a roar over their heads and recognized Italian reconnaissance planes. The planes spotted the refugees and the next day a rescue ship arrived and transferred them to the Island of Rhodes where they will remain for the duration of the war.

HLINKA GUARD, S.S. MEN, GIVEN COMPLETE CONTROL OVER SLOVAKIAN JEWS

ZURICH, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- The execution of anti-Jewish measures in Slovakia will be left to the Hlinka Guard, Slovakian storm-troopers, under special instructions issued to them today by the Slovak Ministry of the Interior, according to an announcement over the Bratislava radio.

The official decree empowering the Hlinka Guard and the Nazi SS-troopers in Slovakia to assume control of the enforcement of anti-Jewish legislation went into effect December 4. Each Hlinka guardsman and Nazi trooper detailed to this duty will receive a special identity card bearing his photograph. Any two of these men have the right to take into custody a Jew who cannot prove his identity or has violated any regulations.

In the course of their duties they may enter Jewish business houses if they are in pursuit of a Jew and they may carry out personal search of any Jew. They are also responsible for enforcing the various police decrees aimed against Jews as well as the regulations requiring Jews to wear identification labels and restricting their travel. They are to supervise the ban on ritual slaughter, the carrying out of the compulsory labor laws aimed against Jews and the ban on the formation of Jewish societies. Similarly, they are to enforce the prohibition of the employment of Aryan servants by Jews, of the carrying of arms, fishing and driving motor vehicles, and the regulation forbidding Jews to take over or reestablish industrial or commercial enterprises from which they have been excluded.

NAZIS COPY PHARAOH'S METHODS OF ENSLAVING THE JEWS AS BRICK CARRIERS

LONDON, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Pharaoh's methods of forcing the Jews in Egypt to make bricks and carry them on their backs under the whip of merciless supervisors are now being emulated by the Nazis in Belgian concentration camps, especially in the Breendonk camps where mostly Jews from Belgium and Northern France are confined, it was reported here today by a prominent Belgian who recently succeeded in reaching England.

The Jewish internees at the Breendonk camp, the eye-witness said, are forced to carry bricks all day long. The number of bricks that must be carried each trip is specified by the armed Nazi guards as well as the number of trips that must be made by each internee during the day. Failure to fulfill the quota of work is punished by ordering the Jewish prisoner to climb a rocky hill and roll down like a child while the other prisoners are forced to laugh. Those rolling down the hill rarely arrive at the bottom without a broken leg or arm and numerous bruises, the refugee from Belgium stated.

EXHIBITION TRACING HISTORY OF JEWS AS WARRIORS OPENS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- An exhibit entitled "Jewish Heroism" and tracing the history of Jews as warriors down the centuries opened here yesterday in the Jewish National Museum.

It contains 150 exhibits depicting the Jews as defenders of their own country and freedom for 3,500 years, starting from the nomadic Jewish tribes, the exodus from Egypt, the conquest of Palestine, Jewish wars in Palestine down to the last defense of the second Temple, the revolt led by Bar Kochba and the fall of Betar. Some of the exhibits show Jews as hired warriors beginning a Jewish military settlement in Elephantine, serving under Ptolemy, with the Roman legions, and through the middle ages up to modern times. The concluding exhibit presents the role of the Jewish legions in the past and present war.

BRAZIL SUPPRESSES LOCAL JEWISH NEWSPAPERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Despite the fact that they had conformed with the new decree requiring the foreign language press of Brazil to appear in Portuguese, the Jewish periodicals "Sao Paulo'er Yiddische Zeitung" and "Yiddische Presse" have been banned by the National Department for Press and Propaganda, it was announced here today.

Suppression of the newspapers is explained by a regulation forbidding foreigners to have any part in the intellectual leadership of the country. The regulation was found applicable despite the fact that the officially responsible editors of both periodicals are natives of Brazil. All that now remains of the Jewish press in Brazil is the "Cronica Israelita," a weekly which has been granted temporary permission to appear as official organ of the Jewish religious community of Sao Paulo.

ARGENTINE CONGRESSMAN LAUDS JEWISH ACHIEVEMENTS THERE

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- The contributions made by Argentine Jewry to the development of the country were lauded today by Eduardo Araujo, Radical deputy in the Argentine Parliament, who is here in an attempt to establish a permanent agency that will facilitate refugee settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

Anti-Semitism in Argentina is fostered by small extremely nationalistic parties, but the government, he stated, has shunned any anti-Semitic manifestations.

Senor Araujo had particular praise for the Jewish land developments in the Entre Rios, Sante Fe and Buenos Aires provinces. He related that a resolution calling for a "Jewish back-to-the-land movement," passed at a recent meeting of the Congress of Agrarian Jewish Societies was particularly well received throughout Argentina.

JEWISH ARMY PLAN AND COLONIZATION PROJECTS REVIEWED IN SPECIAL REPORTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Two reports, one dealing with the problem of a Jewish Army and the other with the various projects for Jewish mass-colonization, have been published by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, of which Dr. Jacob Robinson is director.

The issue devoted to the question of a Jewish Army reviews the history of Jewish military forces from the time of the Middle Ages up to World War I when the Jewish Legion was formed as part of the British army. The international and constitutional aspects of a Jewish Army are also touched upon.

The problem of Jewish mass-colonization and the respective merits of scattered and concentrated settlements are discussed in the issue dealing with the possibilities of Jewish colonization in various continents.

URUGUAY DENIES SIGNING PACT RIGIDLY RESTRICTING REFUGEE IMMIGRATION

MONTEVIDEO, Dec. 8. (JTA)-- Foreign Minister Alberto Guani has issued a categorical denial that Uruguay has signed any regional convention with Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina forbidding the landing of political refugees in Uruguay unless they had passports properly issued by the authorities of their respective countries.

This came as a reply to an official bulletin, purporting to come from the Argentine Foreign Office last week, stating that the convention among the five South American countries had fallen into disuse, but would now be strictly enforced.